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**99**

THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

# INVINCIBLE™



**ROBERT KIRKMAN**  
**RYAN OTTLEY**  
**CLIFF RATHBURN**  
**JOHN RAUCH**



**image**® COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE™

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THIS ISN'T  
THE DEATH OF  
EVERYONE...

...JUST A  
SIGNIFICANT  
PORTION OF THE  
POPULATION,  
ACCORDING TO MY  
STUDIES. ENOUGH  
TO FIX THINGS, TO  
TURN THINGS  
AROUND SO THAT  
OUR CIVILIZATION  
CAN ENDURE.

THE WATERS,  
THEY WILL ONLY  
KILL THOUSANDS,  
NOT MILLIONS... BUT  
DRIVING PEOPLE  
FROM THE COASTAL  
CITIES, DISRUPTING  
THOSE LIVES, MAKING  
THE POPULATION  
CENTERS OF THE  
WORLD UNLIVABLE...  
THAT WILL  
CHANGE THE  
WORLD...


...FOR THE  
BETTER!

ISN'T THAT  
WHAT WE WERE  
WORKING TOWARD--  
WHAT WE'RE TRYING  
TO ACCOMPLISH--  
ISN'T THAT WHAT  
YOU WANTED--  
A BETTER  
WORLD?

YOU'RE  
INSANE!  
NO! I  
DIDN'T WANT  
THIS!

NOTHING  
GOOD WILL  
COME OF THIS...  
YOU'VE... RUINED  
EVERYTHING.





THE WATER  
SHOWS NO SIGN  
OF RECEDING ANY  
TIME SOON.  
GUARDIANS--GET  
THESE PEOPLE OFF  
THE STREETS  
AND TO HIGHER  
GROUND.

CECIL, YOUR  
PEOPLE NEED TO  
ISSUE WARNINGS  
BEFORE THE POWER  
GOES OUT! TELL  
PEOPLE TO HOLE UP  
IN THE HIGHER FLOORS  
OF THE BUILDINGS  
WORLDWIDE!

WE'VE GOT  
MUCH BIGGER  
PROBLEMS HERE.  
WE CAN'T BE  
FOCUSING ON  
LOS ANGELES  
EXCLUSIVELY.

KID THOR,  
KNOCKOUT--  
I WANT YOU IN  
SAN DIEGO!

LE BRUSIER,  
PEGASUS--GO TO  
SAN FRANCISCO.



GUARDIANS ARE COVERING THE ENTIRE WEST COAST. I'M SCRAMBLING MORE TEAM MEMBERS TO THE OTHER WEST COAST CITIES.

CAPIES INCORPORATED HAS NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY COVERED. CHUPACABRA IS IN RIO DE JANEIRO. WOLF-MAN AND THE WOLF C.O.R.P.S. ARE IN HONG KONG DOING ALL THEY CAN! ACTIONEERS ARE IN LONDON.

I'M SCRAMBLING TROOPS TO ALL OTHER CITIES. THE CURRENT BARRAGE IS BEING HANDLED AS WELL AS IT CAN, I'M TRANSITIONING TO MORE LONG-TERM THINKING.

I'VE FORWARDED OVER A SET OF SCHEMATICS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING WORLDWIDE. I ESTIMATE IF WE SINK ALL OUR AVAILABLE RESOURCES INTO THIS, IT CAN BE BUILT IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS.


THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH TIME FOR THE WATER TO ERODE OR COMPROMISE THE STRUCTURES OF THESE CITIES. WE NEED TO MOVE ON THIS QUICKLY--GET MY SCHEMATICS TO SINCLAIR AND THE REST OF YOUR BRAIN TRUST NOW!

I'M ON IT! THEY'RE LOOKING OVER THEM AND GETTING STARTED.

GOOD, I'LL BE THERE TO ASSIST AS SOON AS THE CURRENT RESCUE MISSION IS OVER. I'M CURRENTLY PILOTING NEARLY THIRTY DRONES THAT ARE DIVIDING MY FOCUS.





A full-page comic book illustration showing Batman in his blue and black suit, crouched on the back of a large, red, scaly dinosaur. The dinosaur is roaring with its mouth wide open, showing sharp teeth. The scene is set against a blue sky with large, billowing white clouds. Several speech bubbles contain dialogue between the characters.

THIS IS ALL  
MY FAULT! DO  
YOU REALIZE THAT?!  
I FREED YOU--I  
BELIEVED IN YOU! I  
THOUGHT YOU REALLY  
WERE WORKING FOR  
THE GOOD OF  
HUMANITY--BUT  
NOW--NOW--

YOU'VE  
MADE  
ME A MASS  
MURDERER!

THERE'S NO  
COMING BACK  
FROM THIS--  
NOT THIS MANY  
PEOPLE--THIS MUCH  
DESTRUCTION!  
YOU'VE RUINED  
ME!


I UNDERSTAND  
YOU'RE ANGRY--  
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM  
SEEING THE BIGGER  
PICTURE, THAT'S YOUR  
WEAKNESS... BUT I SEE  
NO REASON FOR YOU  
TO ATTEMPT TO  
HURT ME.

I JUST  
DON'T SEE  
WHAT THAT WILL  
ACCOMPLISH.









YOU ARE INTELLIGENT, I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. IT SEEMS HORRIBLE---NOW! IT SEEMS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD---NOW! BUT THESE DEATHS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL!

YOU YOURSELF EVEN ADMITTED THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL---YOU JUST DISAGREED WITH THE WAY I ACCOMPLISHED THAT GOAL.

TRUST ME THAT THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES HERE!

TRUST ME!

SHUT UP!







I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
EVEN HOPING TO  
ACCOMPLISH HERE.  
YOU'VE NEVER  
BEEN ABLE TO  
DEFEAT ME  
PHYSICALLY.


ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
MAKE ME KILL  
YOU? HAS  
IT COME TO  
THAT?

YOU'RE  
WORRIED THE  
PEOPLE WILL  
HATE YOU, AND  
YOU CAN'T  
GO ON?!

KR OOM!!!







I DON'T BUY IT FOR A MINUTE. SO WHAT IS IT THEN? ARE YOU JUST **ANGRY**? I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THAT'S LOGICAL. I'VE DONE SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, IT'S NATURAL TO FIND THAT FRUSTRATING.

EVEN **INFURIATING**.

NOW--  
**LET THAT GO!**

CALM DOWN AND SEE THE FUTURE--SEE A TIME WHERE YOU AND I COOPERATE, WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE THE BURDEN OF YOUR HERO STATUS.

WITH YOUR POWERS RETURNED, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH. AND SO WHAT IF THE PEOPLE **HATE US**? THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT **CREDIT**.

THIS IS ABOUT **SAVING MODERN CIVILIZATION**.

I DON'T DO THIS FOR **GLORY**. I DO THIS BECAUSE I **CARE**.



I'M SURE  
YOU'RE ALL  
AWARE OF THE  
REASON I'VE  
CALLED YOU  
HERE.

OUR ADOPTIVE  
PLANET IS  
EXPERIENCING A  
CATACLYSM, BUT I  
MUST REITERATE--  
YOU ARE NOT TO  
INTERFERE IN  
ANY WAY.

WERE OUR  
PRESENCE TO BE  
KNOWN TO THE  
POPULATION, IT WOULD  
COMPLICATE MATTERS.  
WE ARE TO EXIST HERE,  
UNDETECTED, BIDDING  
OUR TIME UNTIL OUR  
OFFSPRING IS OF AGE  
AND EXHIBITING  
VILTRUMITE  
ABILITIES.

IT IS ONLY  
WHEN OUR RANKS  
SWELL THAT WE  
WILL REVEAL  
OURSELVES AND  
ASSUME CONTROL  
OF THE PLANET.


WE  
CANNOT STIR  
THE COALITION  
OF PLANETS INTO  
ACTION, OUR  
PEOPLE WOULD  
NOT **SURVIVE**  
ANOTHER  
CONFLICT.

I KNOW THAT  
MANY OF US HAVE  
GROWN CONNECTED  
TO OUR CHOSEN MATES  
ON THE PLANET BELOW...  
THAT IS ILL-ADVISED.  
WHATEVER HAPPENS  
TO THESE PEOPLE, IT  
MUST BE ALLOWED  
TO HAPPEN.

ANYONE  
WHO DISOBEYS  
ME, WILL  
**FACE MY  
WRATH.**







STAGING  
GROUND SEVEN,  
IN NEW JERSEY,  
CAN TAKE ON  
MORE REFUGEES,  
WE'RE DIVERTING  
THIS BATCH  
THERE.

MY SCANS  
SHOW THAT THE  
STREETS HAVE  
BEEN COMPLETELY  
EVACUATED, AND  
THE CASUALTIES  
HAVE BEEN MUCH  
**LOWER** THAN  
PROJECTED.

STILL NOT  
LOW ENOUGH.  
THE EVACUATION  
IS WORKING, BUT  
THESE PEOPLE CAN'T  
BE DISPLACED FOR  
LONG. DO YOU HAVE  
A PLAN FOR THIS?  
CAN A SEA WALL BE  
CONSTRUCTED?

IT COULD--  
BUT I'VE GOT  
A TEAM WORKING  
ON SOMETHING  
**BETTER**. WE  
SHOULD HAVE IT  
READY IN--

WAIT! I'M  
GETTING A REPORT  
IN--THEY'VE FOUND  
DINOSAURUS. THEY'RE  
TRACKING A FIGHT  
BETWEEN HIM AND  
INVINCIBLE  
RIGHT NOW.

THEY'RE  
STILL IN  
LOS ANGELES.





WIROKKI!

I THINK  
YOU'VE SAID  
MORE THAN  
ENOUGH!



NOW  
LISTEN TO  
ME!!

WIRROOO!!!





**THROKK OOM!**

I WAS STUPID  
TO EVER TRUST  
YOU! YOU'RE  
BRILLIANT--YOU HAVE  
GOOD IDEAS--YOU  
RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS  
THAT OTHERS HAVE  
BARELY BEGUN TO  
CONCEIVE--  
BUT YOU'RE  
INSANE!

I THOUGHT  
WE COULD  
SAVE THE  
WORLD!

INSTEAD  
YOU'VE MADE  
ME YOUR  
ACCOMPLICE IN  
DESTROYING  
IT!

FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
HUMANITY--  
YOU HAVE  
TO DIE!





# BOOM!

**NO!**

I HAVE THE  
DATA! I SEE  
WHAT LIES  
AHEAD FOR US!  
I KNOW WHAT  
I'M DOING IS  
RIGHT!

IF YOU  
REFUSE TO  
HELP ME--  
IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
STAND IN MY  
WAY--





IT'S  
YOU  
WHO MUST  
DIE!

BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
HAVE TO BE  
THIS WAY--  
YOU CAN  
STOP THIS--  
YOU CAN--

ALL I'M  
GOING TO  
DO IS  
TAKE YOU  
DOWN!









IT WOULD  
APPEAR WE'VE  
ATTRACTED A  
SPECTATOR.  
NO MATTER...  
THE WORLD  
SHOULD SEE  
THIS.

IT  
WILL WARN  
OTHERS  
WHO OPPOSE  
ME--YOU  
SEE...

...SINCE  
YOU'VE PROVEN,  
INVINCIBLE,  
THAT YOU CAN'T  
STAY OUT OF  
MY WAY...



I'M AFRAID  
I HAVE NO  
CHOICE---IT'S  
TIME FOR  
YOU TO  
**DIE!**





WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

# INVINCIBLE

While you read this, try not to think about Mark getting his head squooshed in the corner of your eye. To distract you, here's a letter from a crazy Canadian.

Kirkottleyburnauch,

I felt like my first letter sounded like a 13 year old fangirl and I was totally embarrassed. Here's my second wind maybe.

When I mentioned that I was excited when issue 97 came out, well I lied. I'm REALLY excited now though. I'm finally reading an INVINCIBLE comic where the main character makes a real appearance, yay! But im upset you may give him the ugly blue costume again (based on the next cover, but when is that really accurate)... All I can see is a weird version of the Tick, I'm sorry, guys. As upset it was to read Zandale's misfortune at life, where could I find a lizard bikini on canvas? I need one on my wall and I'm not good enough to paint something that awesome. I will send you new plastic Canadian money for it. Also, are parents that stupid that they can't even recognize their own children apart? Whatevs, they deserve the frying pan.

By the way, I feel Mark's pain. Please don't print fifteen variant covers for issue 100.

Whatevs.

*What are we doing 8? 9? That's not too many... right?!*

Emilie  
Ottawa, Canada  
p.s. I need more Grizzly Shark and Sea Bear in my life.  
p.s.s.: Is someone getting super good action lately? There's only so much intense sex I can read in books...

You might not want to read the all-sex issue coming up then.

*All sex issue? Now THERE'S an idea!!*

Dear Penvincipals,

In the letters column of Invincible #96, it was stated that issue 97 would either be fans' favorite issue or least favorite issue, no inbetween. Issue 97 is the reason why I love this book, why it's at the top of my pull list every month. Everything about this was great, especially that last couple of pages with Mark & Eve. The aftermath of Zandale's origin was crazy, you can't find this in any other book on the market. Kirkman, Ottley, & Walker, you guys have truly struck gold with this series, it's one of the most refreshing and engaging superhero stories I've ever read. Ottley is one of my favorite artist and I love the visual direction he took Eve in, a realistic portrayal of how everybody is different and there isn't any conformity to look a certain way because she is the female lead, I actually prefer this look. I was wondering though, are we going to see any interaction between Mark and Zandale in the coming issues because I don't think we have really ever got Mark's take on his replacement. Also, after Mark takes back the mantle, will Zandale remain a prominent supporting character?

Bryant S.

You sure do underestimate the efforts on one Dinosaurus. Have you SEEN the cover to #101?

*Yeah, who says Mark will take back the mantle? Ever?!*

Kirkman and Co.,

Happy Thanksgiving, y'all! First up for my Image Triple Header, Invincible 97... What a fun issue, talk about ALL OVER the place. The bit with Zandale was awfully surprising (well played) as was the comic convention interlude (intriguing as it was). The steamy climax (get it?) has to take the cake for me though, Mark's back in the game, FTW. Nicely done (and quite hilarious). I get the feeling this issue serves as a breath of fresh air before "Everyone Dies" or whatever. As a rule I avoid web promo-type stuff, so all I've seen are the teasers in the individual issues. I do look forward to the ride to #100 (variants and all) and will love every second, I'm sure... Then again, you have been AWFUL dark of late... and we all know how "safe" folks are in your books.

A few questions...

1) You all brought up different timelines vs. dimensions in the letters column (which was also super fun this month). Can "our" Mark Grayson theoretically visit folks like Supreme or Dragon in Erik Larsen's timelines? I know Image is United but Separate... but lines can blur, right? That would be Awesome.

*Nolan himself appears in the newest issue of Erik Larsen's SUPREME--so yeah, they can interact. Invincible has appeared a few times in Savage Dragon, and vice versa... Dragon appears here all the time.*

2) Is it me or is Eve a little slimmer again? Or Samantha if you prefer... She certainly was vapid this ish either way...

It's you, Stylez. Get your eyes checked.

*Eve is the same, as I recall.*

3) Whatever happened to the Squid threat? Still lurking around?

*That remains to be seen, doesn't it?*

That's it for now... I have this week's SAVAGE DRAGON and THE WALKING DEAD up next for this pre-turkey day Triple Header.... So I'll see y'all again soon.

Battle Beast FTW,  
Cam Stylez

You better not kill anybody, Kirkman...NOBODY! (Don't take this as some kind of weird encouragement that I want someone to die, I want to be reading about Robot, Nolan, Allen and Oliver six months from now.)

Sincerely,  
Kurt Gertzen

*Doesn't seem likely does it? I mean, who would do a storyline called "THE DEATH OF EVERYONE" and not kill ANY major characters?*

WOW!

Thanks so much, guys. I just wanted to say how thoroughly I enjoyed issue 97! This issue was probably the most fun issue I've read since before the Viltrumite War! The tone was just really refreshing and I loved that you even acknowledged that yourself. Awesome job as usual, you won't be losing me as a reader any time soon!



Nick Brydels  
Philadelphia, PA

*Thanks for writing in. Glad you loved that issue. I'm really proud of it, simply because I think it embodies the kinds of risks you can take on creator-owned, non-corporate controlled comics. It's unique, I believe... and that's a cool thing.*

Hey guys,

I'm so impressed by this recent Invincible stuff that I'm actually writing to a comic book letter column for the first time since the pre-internet age. Honest injun.

Where to begin? Ryan has always scared me a little with his unwavering sense of style, precision, and... frankly terrifying consistency. The guy just gets out of bed in the morning and farts awesome like it's no big deal. And when Cliff took over on inks, he immediately got it so right that I actually had to be told by Ryan himself, months later, that he wasn't inking his own stuff anymore because I hadn't even noticed. True story.

Farting awesome?! That is some trick.

*You should try it some time. It's much more pleasant than farting putrid bowel gas.*

And Cory, man, I wasn't happy when he left the book way back when (although, you know, we did get Ryan out of the deal, so that turned out okay, I guess), but what he's doing now is so much better, I worry he's been eating too many power-up mushrooms. Specifically, something about the way his art gels with John's coloring is... I can't quite put my finger on it, but if you can look at this stuff and it doesn't make your eyes water and your pants tingle, you have no soul. And that's not just because John's basically the best colorist in the business today, this is magic happening because the right people are working together. These four have been knocking it out of the park issue after issue, and it just makes me happy to be alive to witness it.

*Agreed.*

I'm even more impressed by Robert's writing, though. In this day and age of "decompressed storytelling," I really thought cramming a centuries-spanning space epic into a few monthly issues was a lost art. There are writers who'd fill an entire TPB with what happens in half of one of these. And even more amazingly, it never loses emotional impact or immediacy as this type of writing sometimes does, and manages to actually be relevant and meaningful both on a political and a character level. It's just all-around fantastic stuff.

*Disagreed.*

In short, I've been reading Invincible since issue 1, and I'm pretty sure this is my favorite story arc so far. Who the hell pulls off their best stuff after almost 100 issues? That shouldn't even be possible. This book should be stale and tired by now.

Amazing work, gentlemen.

Mike Meier  
Zurich, Switzerland

*Practice makes perfect...*

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I have an idea.

Everyone wants to see more INVINCIBLE; I can state this with certainty. Unfortunately, even at peak efficiency, Mr. Ottley can only generate one issue every three weeks or so due to his obstinate refusal to grow a third arm. INVINCIBLE is a brilliant book, and many just can't wait three or more weeks for each new issue to come out... so who says they have to?

We've seen that Mr. Ottley and Mr. Walker have no problem with working on the book concurrently; they'll happily trade off for a couple issues,

and even work on the same issues together. So... what if you just permanently staggered the issues between them? Ottley does issue 101. Walker does issue 102. Ottley does 103. Walker does 104. Et cetera. You'd be able to print new issues of the book twice as fast and earn twice as much money for yourself without overtaxing either artist. Everybody's happy.

Except me. The editor. Who sees nothing but flaws with your thesis.

*Yeah. It'd be inconsistent. The two of them sharing art duties on the last few issues worked because the story was written that way. And if you pay attention, every time Cory Walker has come back to the book, it's been to tell someone OTHER than Mark Grayson's story--that's always been saved for Ryan, for consistency. Never mind the fact that I can't write two issues a month (as much as I'd like to) and Cory isn't a monthly guy... so that wouldn't work.*

What's more, schedule delays would be a thing of the past, and fans could see new issues of their favorite comic on the stands as often as every two weeks. Come to think of it, you could even get Mr. Moore, Mr. Rathburn, Mr. Englert, and Mr. Su involved (Bellegarde's busy, right?) and have SIX new issues hitting the stands each month! You could have new issues of INVINCIBLE hitting the stands faster than the fans could even read them!

Mostly, I think you're doing Ryan a HUGE disservice. He farts awesome.

Now, a couple other quick, comic-book-nerdy things while I'm here:

1) Monster Girl's bisexual? LET THE FANFICTION COMMENCE!!!

No thanks. Any more bright ideas?

2) When Amanda and Rex opted to leave the Flaxan dimension, weren't they potentially giving up CENTURIES of life, since they start aging at normal speed again? That's kind of sad... On that note, couldn't EVERYONE move to the Flaxan dimension and become virtually immortal?

Like the Flaxan dimension is such an attractive destination? 0 for 2, kid.

3) MORE ANGSTROM LEVY!!!

OK... done.

4) MORE WOLF-MAN!!!

Go read GUARDING THE GLOBE! That guy's in there!

5) Is there any way in hell Marvel, DC, and Image could do a three-way crossover? I know each of the three has been with the other two at various times, and INVINCIBLE came close during the first Angstrom Levy attack, but I don't think there have ever been all three in, like, the same room. I know it's pretty much pointless now that rivals Disney and Warner Brothers are at the respective helms of Marvel and DC, but I can dream, can't I? (And I've got some ideas on how it could work, if they need a writer.)

They don't. Sorry, dude.

Anyway, keep up the good work. (And seriously... give that multi-artist thing some thought. It could work.)

Nope.

Sincerely,  
Brendan Mallory

Next month, after ten years in the making... it's finally here. INVINCIBLE #100.

-Sean Mackiewicz

*Holy crap! Issue 100 already!! I've lost track! NEAT! I can't wait to see what happens!*

-Robert Kirkman



**DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!**



**INVINCIBLE #100**  
ON SALE JANUARY 2013

**BLACKACRE**

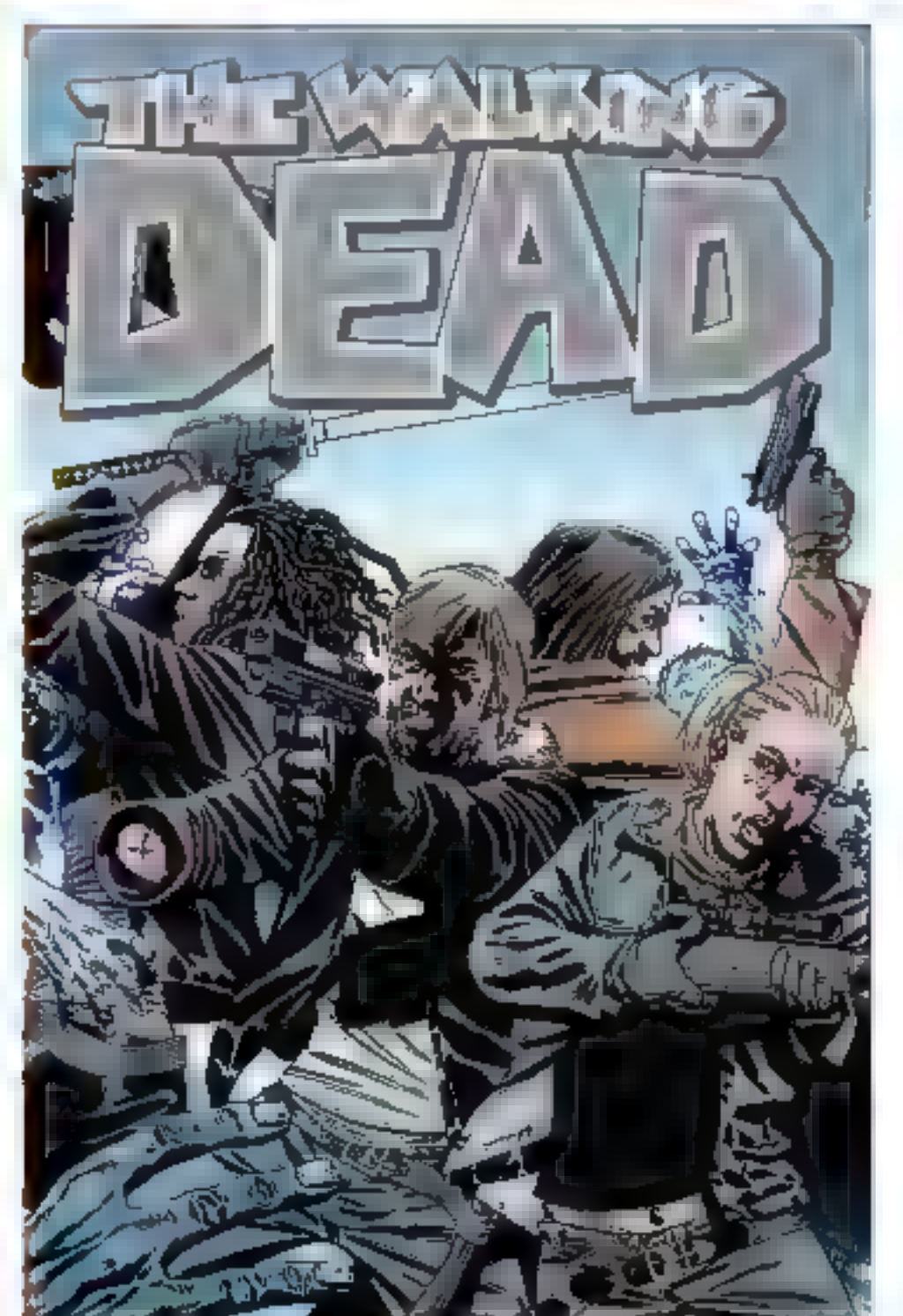


**BLACKACRE #2**  
ON SALE NOW

ED BRUBAKER SEAN PHILLIPS



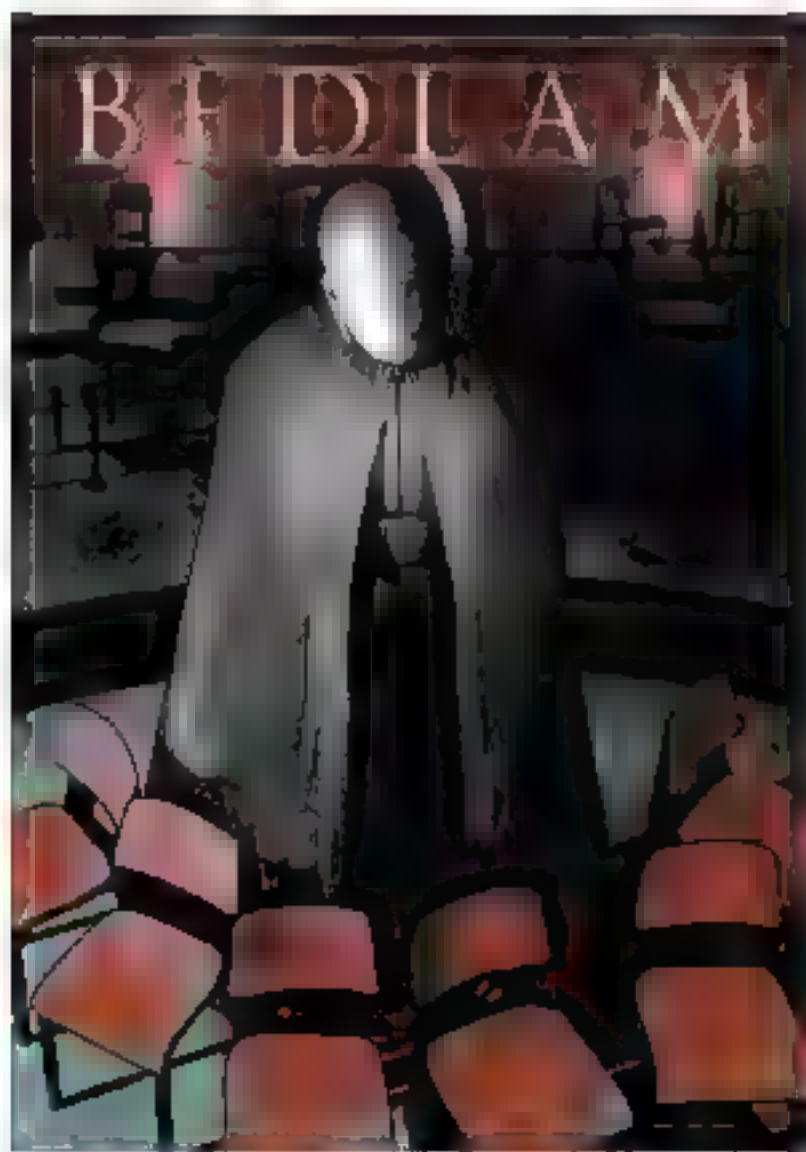
**FATALE #11**  
ON SALE NOW



**THE WALKING DEAD #106**  
ON SALE NEXT WEEK







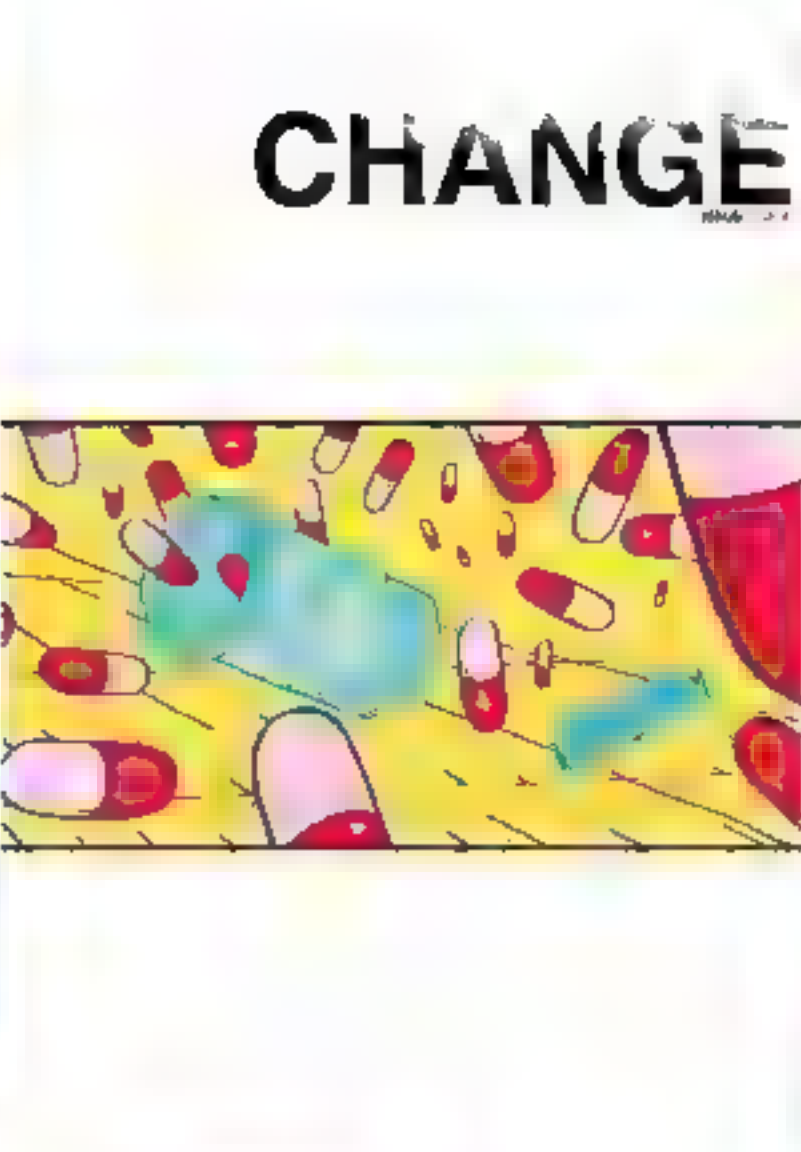
☐ Bedlam #3



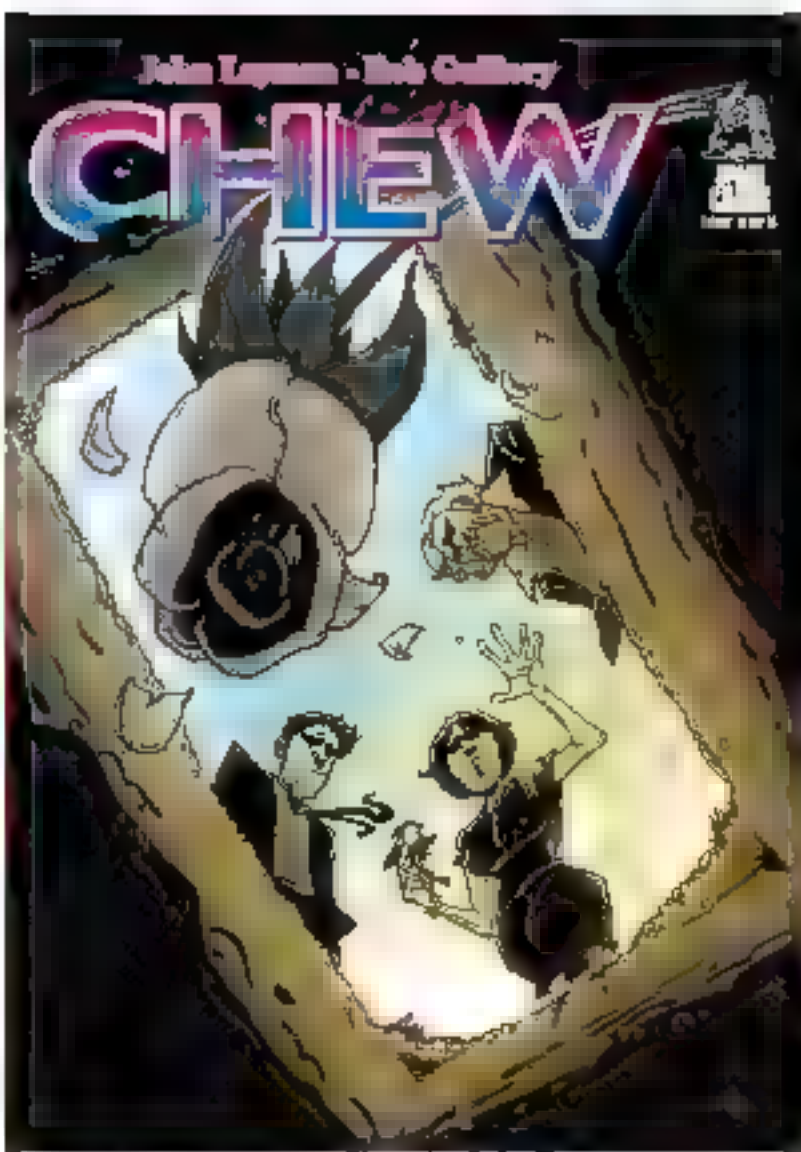
☐ Black Kiss II #6 (of 6)



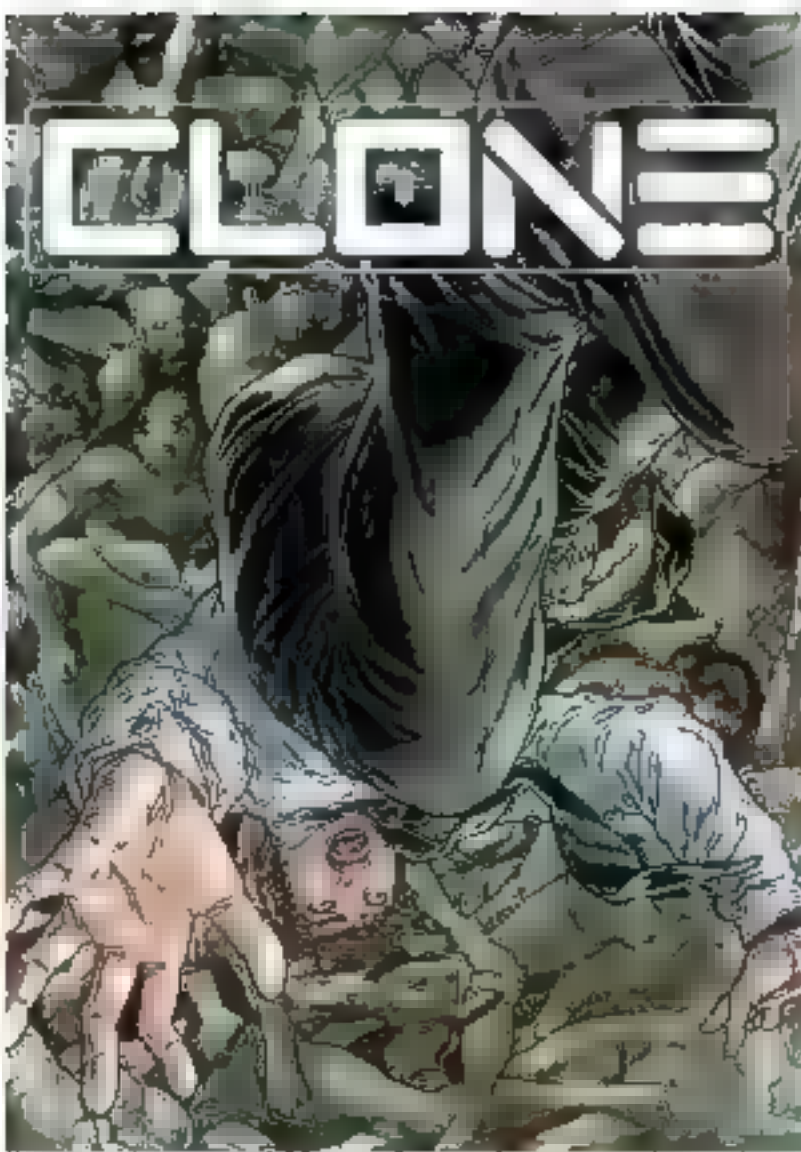
☐ Blackacre #2



☐ Change #2 (of 4)



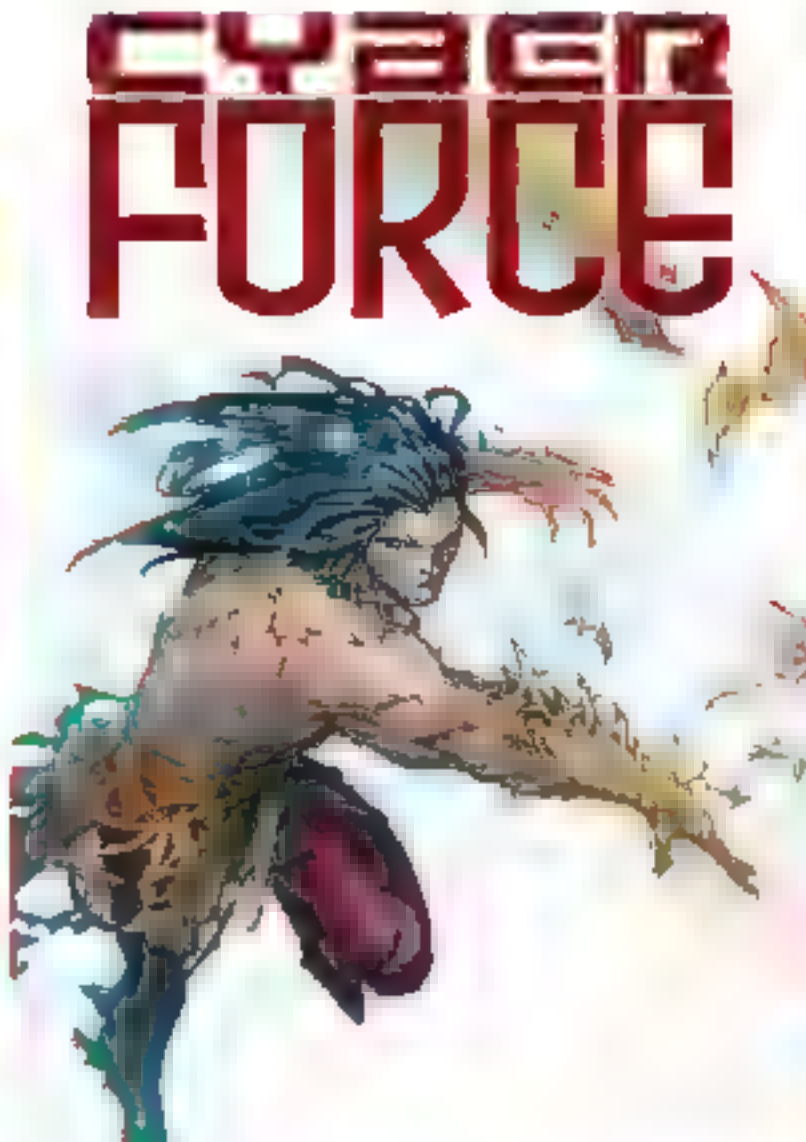
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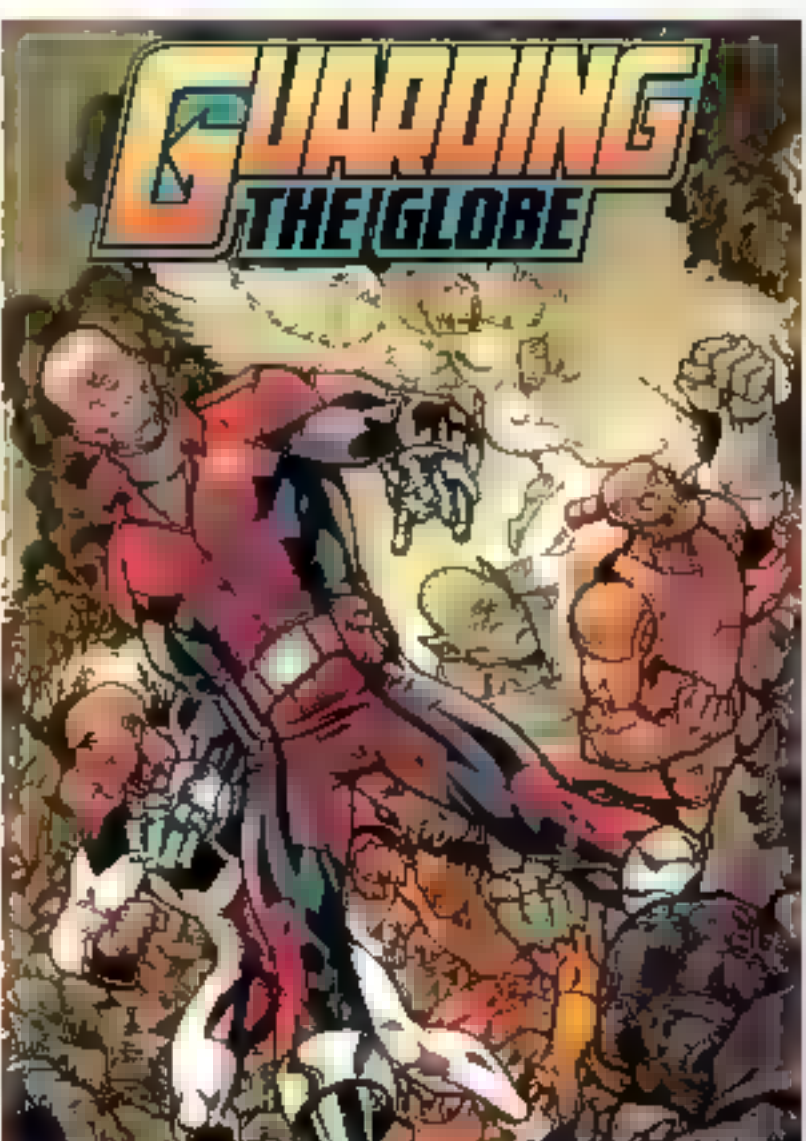
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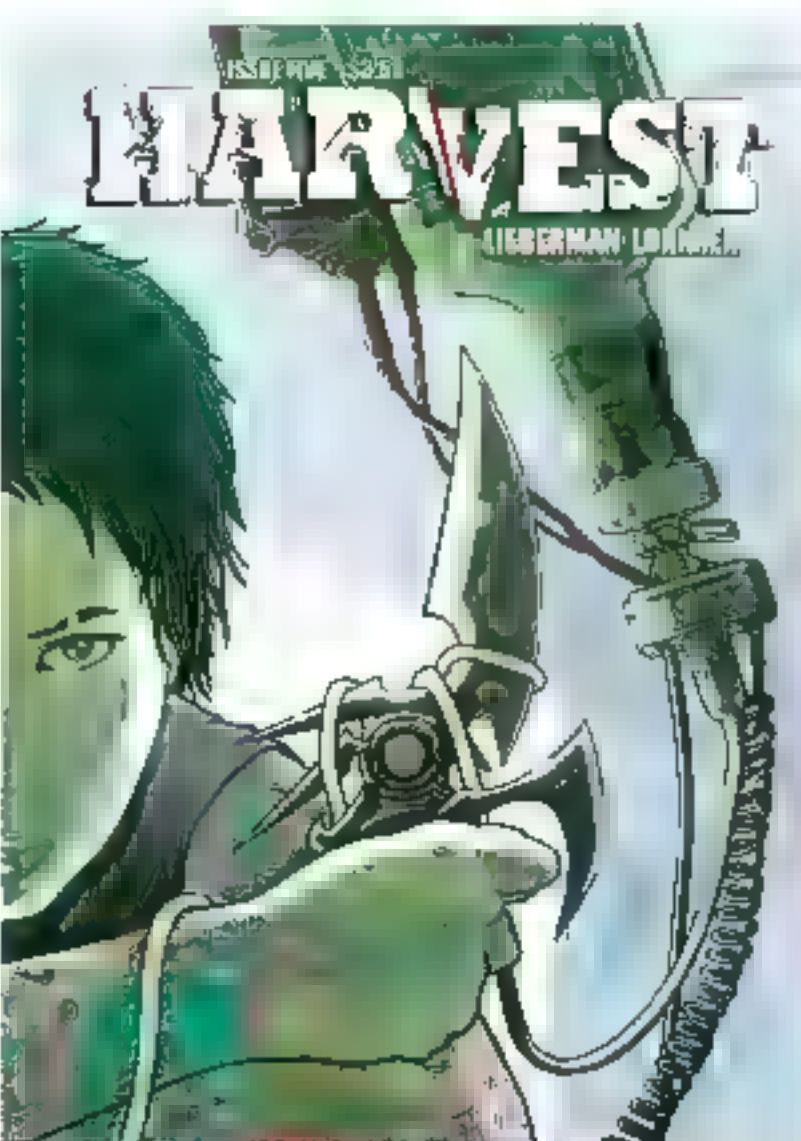
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☐ Guarding the Globe #5



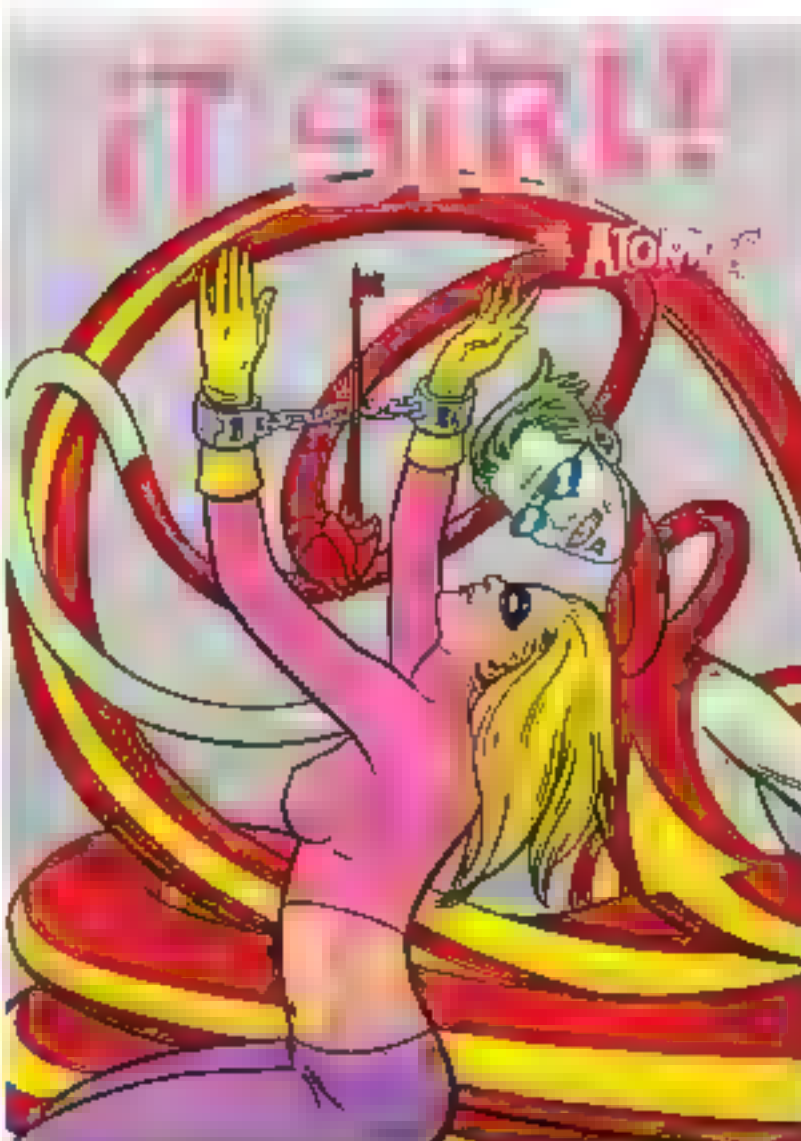
☐ Happy #4 (of 4)



☐ Harvest #5 (of 5)



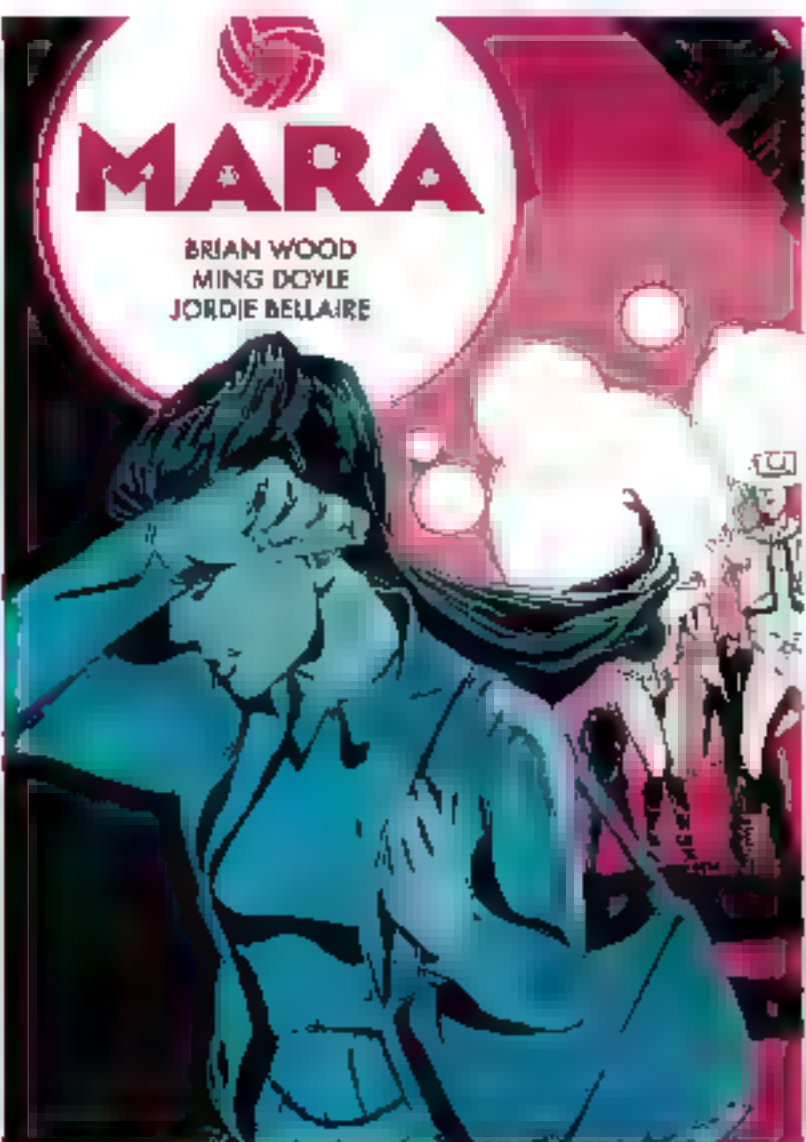
☐ I Love Trouble #2



☐ It Girl and the Atomics #6



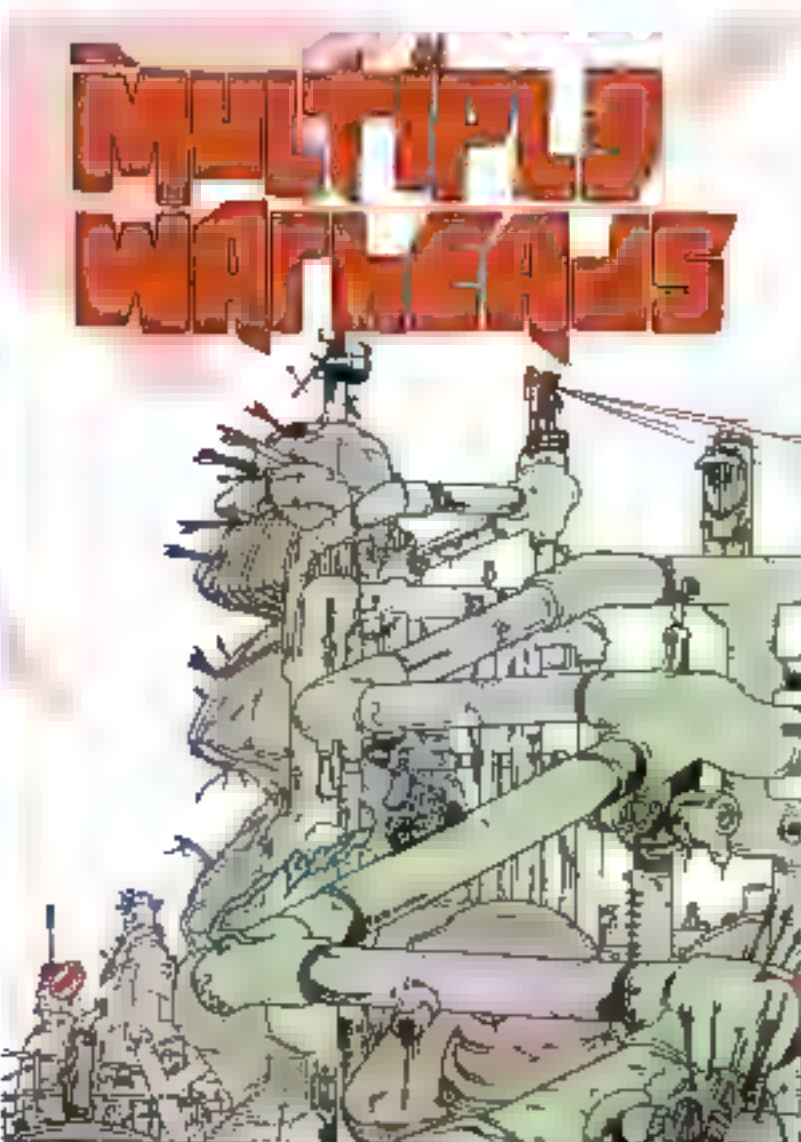
☐ Manhattan Projects #8



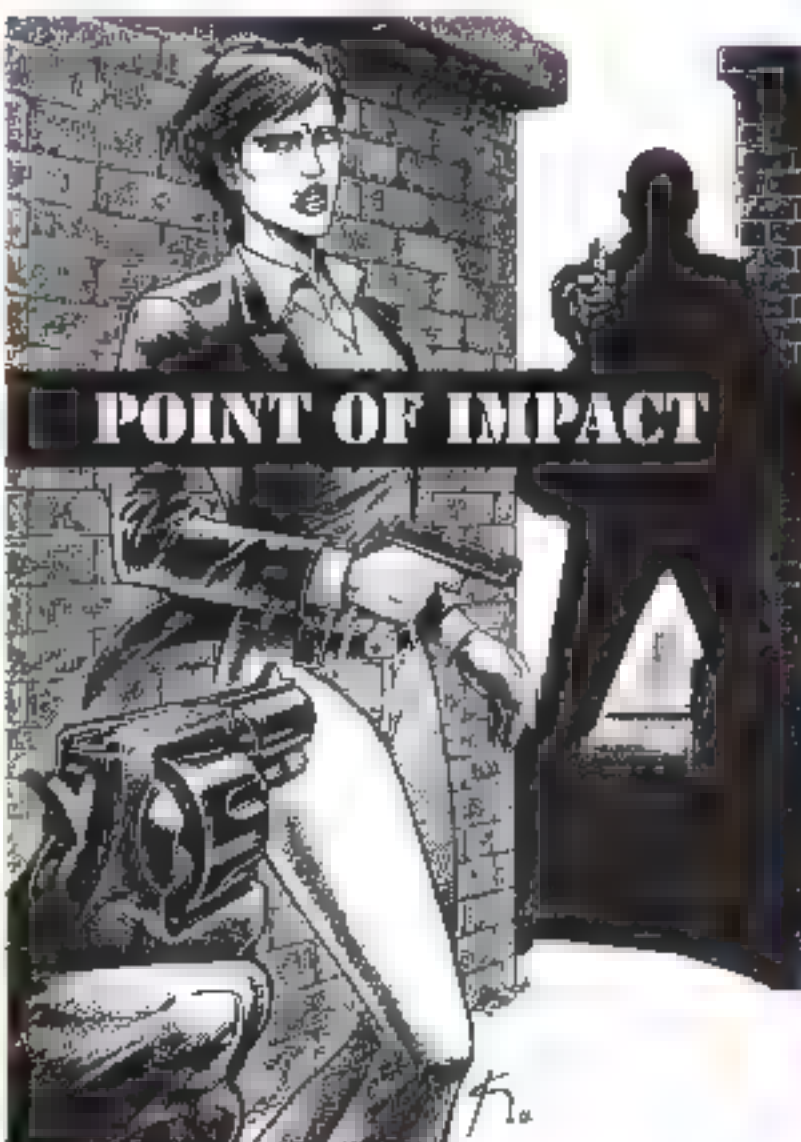
☐ Mara #2 (of 6)



☐ Mind the Gap #7



☐ Multiple Warheads:  
Alphabet to Infinity #4 (of 4)



☐ Point of Impact #4 (of 4)



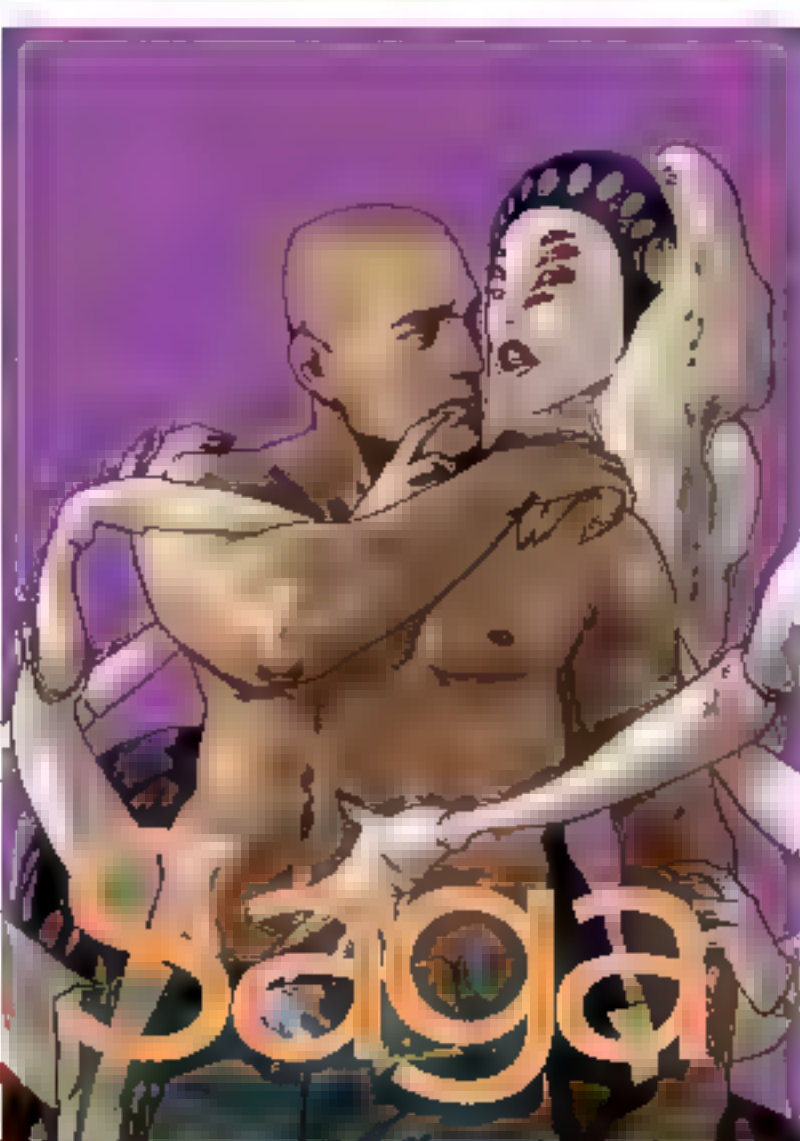
☐ Prophet #32



☐ Repossessed #1 (of 4)



☐ Revival #6



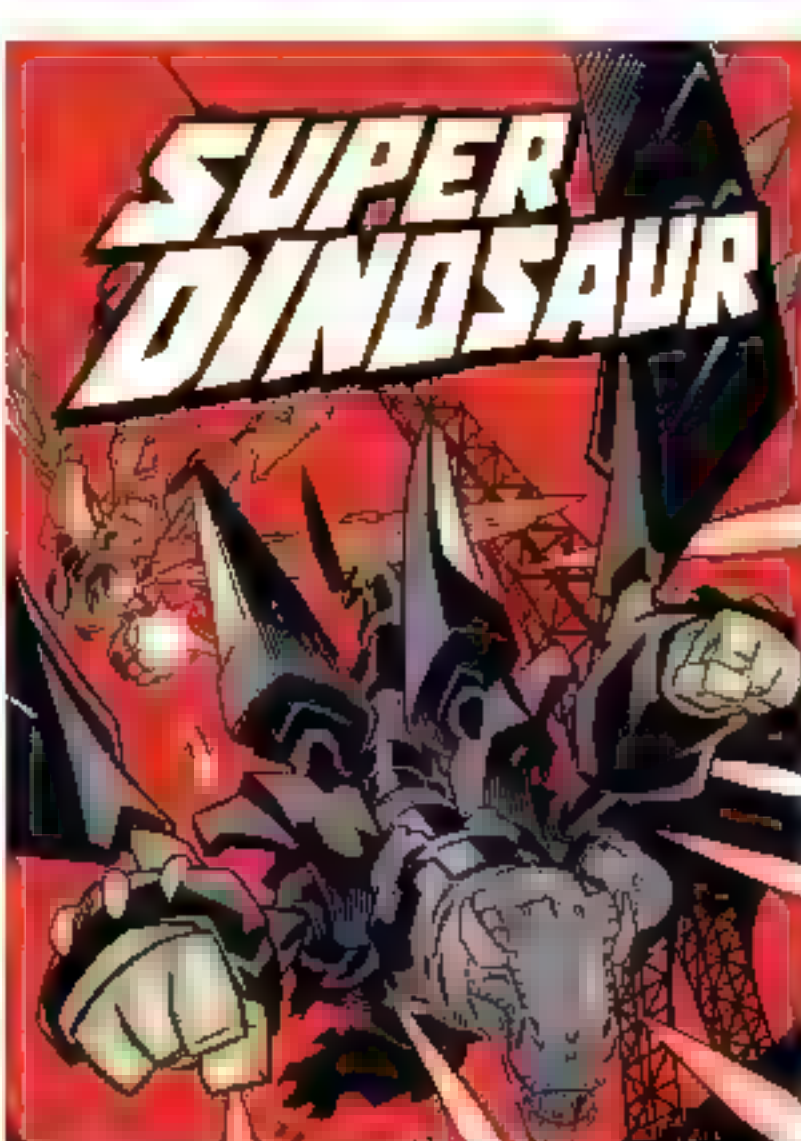
☐ Saga #9



☐ Savage Dragon #184



☐ Spawn #226



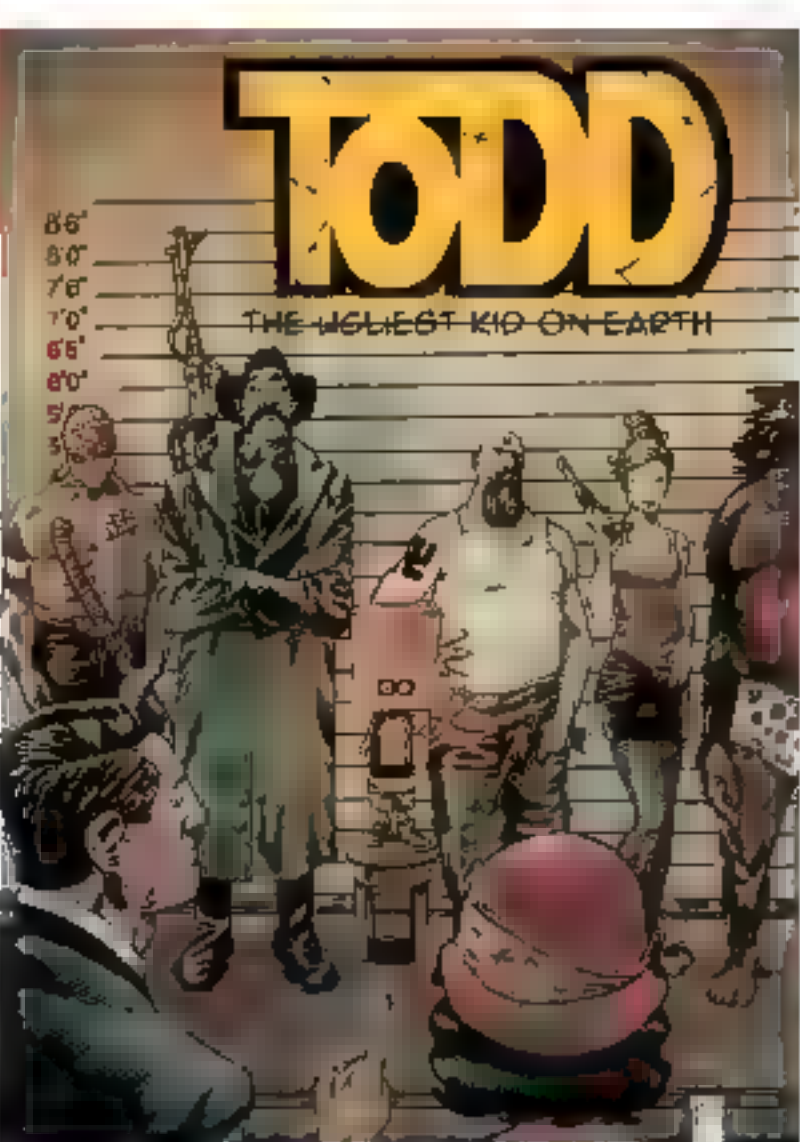
☐ Super Dinosaur #17



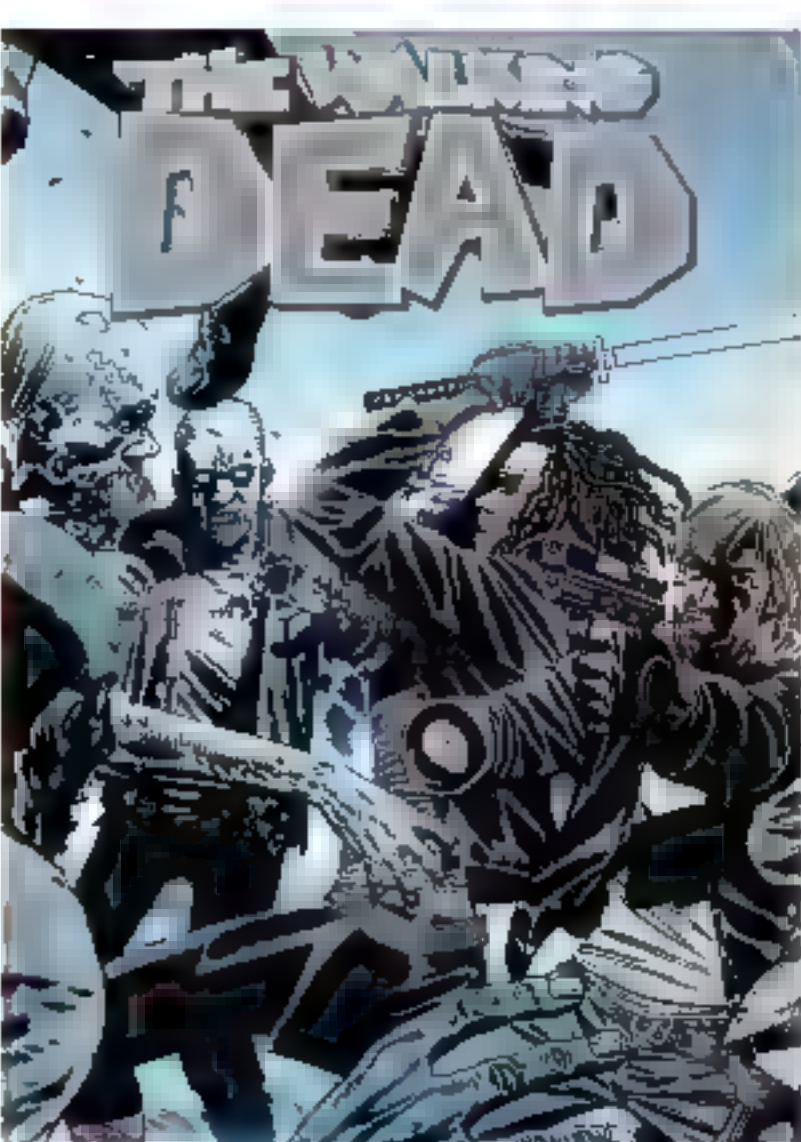
☐ The Legend of  
Luther Strode #2 (of 6)



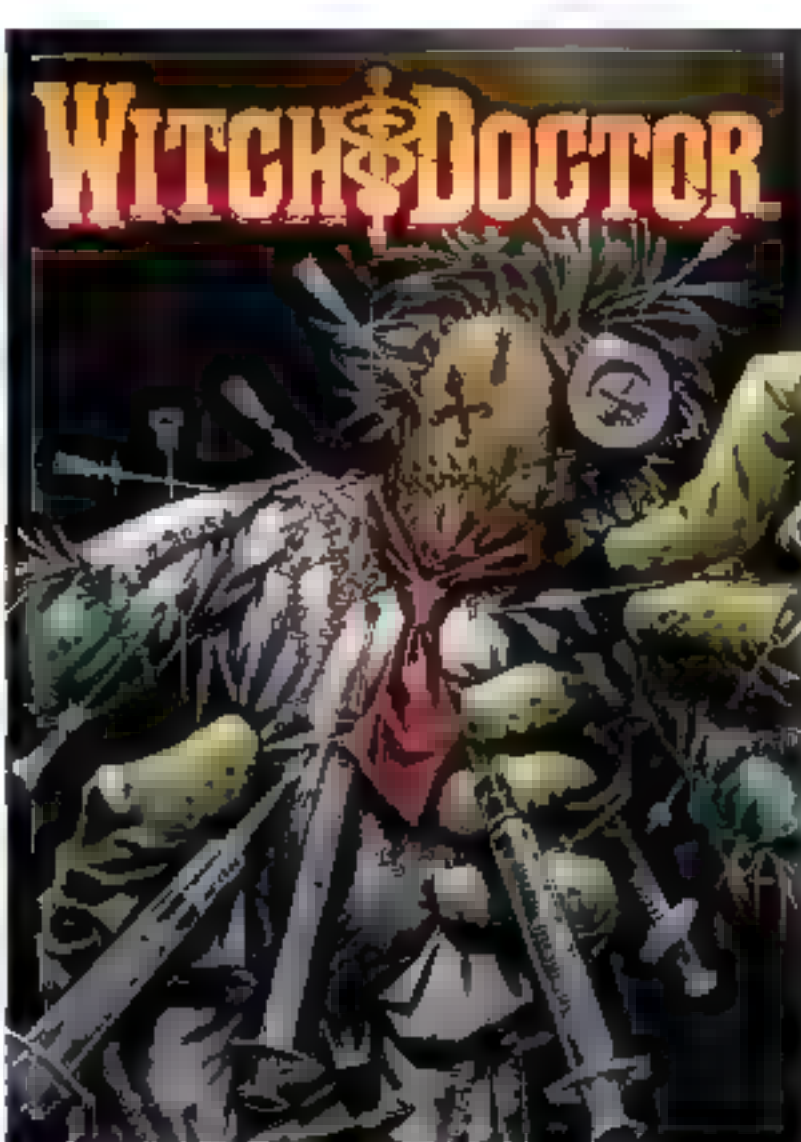
☐ Thief of Thieves #12



☐ Todd, the Ugliest Kid  
on Earth #1 (of 4)



☐ The Walking Dead #106



☐ Witch Doctor  
Mal Practice #3 (of 6)



☐ Witchblade #163



# Question of the Month “WHAT IS YOUR COMICS NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION?”

To better recognize how appreciative I am to be working for Image. It's so easy to get caught up in the next issue and project — you lose sight of where you are.

To try writing in at least two new genres.

Same as always — do more pages!

NO MORE MUTANTS.

THIEF OF THIEVES,  
THE END TIMES OF BRAM & BEN

HELL YEAH

CHEW

HOAX HUNTERS

the  word  
EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

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# JANUARY 2013

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**PAUL POPE** is an American cartoonist living and working in New York City. He has been working primarily in comics since the early '90s. His iconic *Batman: Year 100*, a science fiction take on the classic Batman origin tale, has won numerous awards, seen print in many languages, and appears frequently on many Top 10 Batman story lists. In 2010, Pope was recognized as a Master Artist by the American Council Of The Arts, and is currently sitting on the ACA advisory board. His 2010, short science fiction comic strip *Strange Adventures* (DC Comics)--an homage to the Flash Gordon serials of the '30s-- won the coveted National Cartoonist Society's Reuben Award for Best Comic Book of the year.

What are you working on right now?

I just wrapped *Battling Boy* for First:Second. I have a few dogs in the film fight, let's see if those things pan out. I am immediately moving onto my book *Psychnaut*, for Dargaud, my French publisher. A book about dreams and Carl Jung's theories of dream interpretation.

What's the best part of your job?

The war of art....! It's not always easy, but it's a good fight. So glad people care enough to pay attention.

What's the worst part of your job?

The uncertainty and the isolation. Social anxiety. That's probably just the human condition, though.

How did you first discover comics?

1975, I had the flu. I was five. My pop came back from hockey camp in Ontario with a big busted lip under his moustache and a copy of Kirby's *Bring On The Badguys*. I fell in love with Thor and Doctor Doom. I started drawing superheroes on my bedsheets right after that with a blue Bic marker.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

I don't know. It's hard to imagine doing anything else....

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?

Probably the times you meet someone who says they read your books with their kids. That is really meaningful. I like meeting people, everyone has something to say.

I did, however, just find out that I met Jordie Bellaire, colorist on *Mara*, at some show when she was THIRTEEN and sold her a copy of one of my books. I've never felt older.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

My influences would include Moebius, Alex Toth, Kirby, Crepax....Frank Miller and Jeff Smith....Picasso.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?

I'd say *Battling Boy*, since it is the most vital and fresh for me. I keep trying to improve.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

I love Bing Crosby Christmas tunes. I love walking in the snow and having cold feet. I love the corny Japanese Moog composer Isao Tomita.

What was the last comic book you bought?

I bought the recent Dark Horse collection of Richard Corben's work for *Eerie* and *Creepy*....that is some amazing stuff.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?

Honestly, I'd not change places with anybody.... if I could have dinner with someone, I'd think Mark Twain or maybe Orson Wells or Mickey Rourke or Nick Cave might be good company.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.

Family, Health, Music.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

My lady is a circus performer and builds her own rigs. At the moment, we have an 8 foot tall metal crescent moon with LED displays set up in the living room.

What makes you laugh?

I love the dumb jokes kids tell, like, "two sausages are in a frying pan...." Jokes like that.

What is one of your favorite places?

The island Capri off the coast of Italy. Tokyo. NYC. Ontario. Alaska.

What music are you listening to these days?

I listen a lot lately to Einsturzende Neubauten, Alice Coltrane, Beethoven, Grinderman, and Ravi Shankar.

What is your favorite film of all time?

A tough one...I would likely say *Andrei Rublev*, by Tarkovsky. Close seconds-- *Ran* by Kurosawa, Kubrick's *The Shining*. *Holy Mountain* by Jodorowsky.

Who is your best friend?

Kostas, Harvest, and Pascoe. Scott. Erika.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

"No masterpiece was ever created by a lazy artist" —Salvadore Dali

When was the last time you were truly frightened?

Anytime I'm in a car or on an airplane.

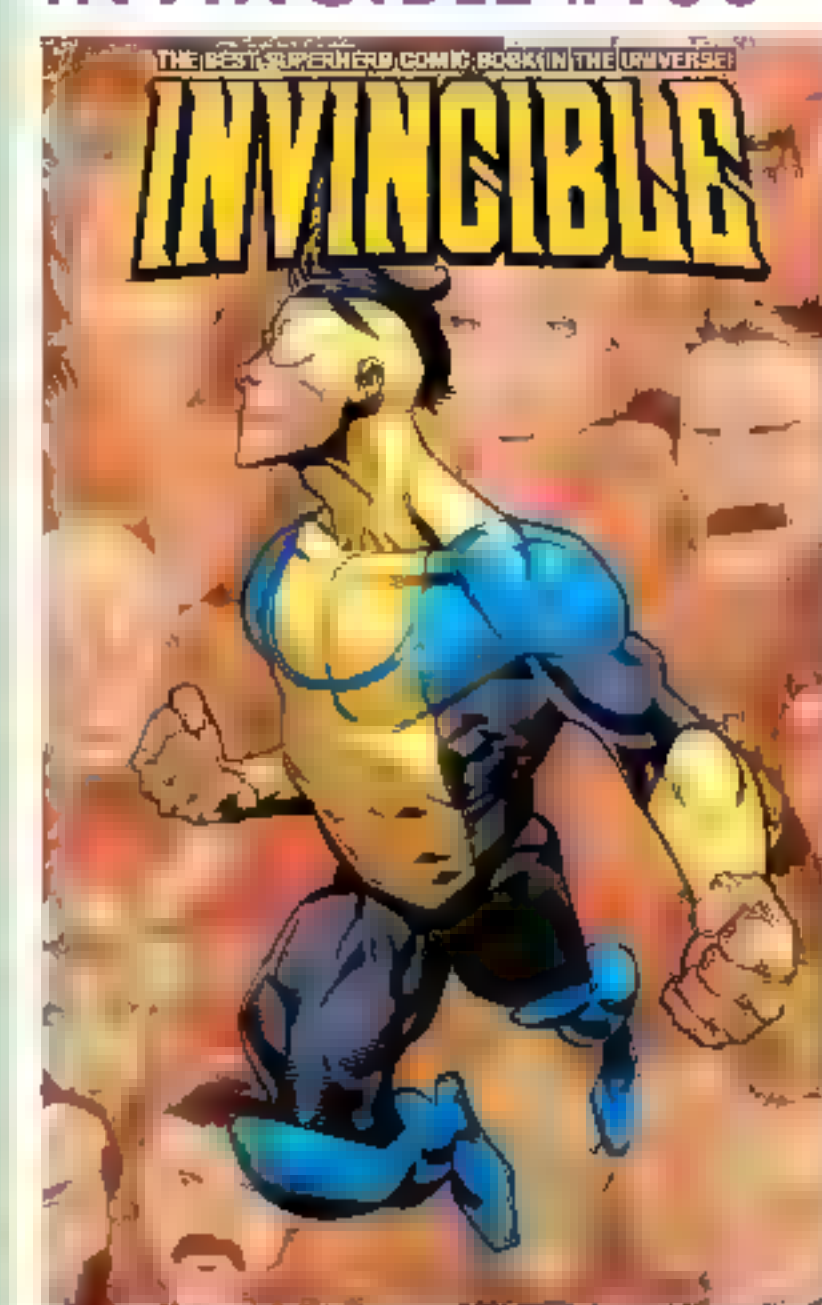
Who is someone you really admire?

Muhammad Ali, Louise Nevelson, Nick Cave, Picasso, Jeff Smith. Miles Davis. Ursula LeGuin. Ian Astbury. Kostas Seremetis.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

I want to see more badass comics, more artists and writers taking the wheel of their own ships, more editors and publishers backing new dreams and visions, more young people getting into comics, both as readers and as makers.

## INVINCIBLE #100



**TWENTY ANNIVERSARY LANDMARK 100th ISSUE SPECTACULAR!** It's all been building to this. Mark Grayson's entire life as a superhero, all he's learned, all he's endured, it's all been leading to this one moment. Will he become the hero he was meant to or will he choose... a DIFFERENT path? The aftermath of this EXTRA-SIZED issue will shock you.

## ONE TRICK RIP-OFF/DEEP-CUTS HC



Young lovers Tubby and Vin want to escape - escape the mistakes they've made, the lives they've lived, and the dirty city weighing them down. Their plan is simple -all they have to do is rip-off the One Tricks - the toughest street gang in LA. If they pull it off, they're set for life. If not, their lives won't matter much anyway.

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS #1 (OF 3)



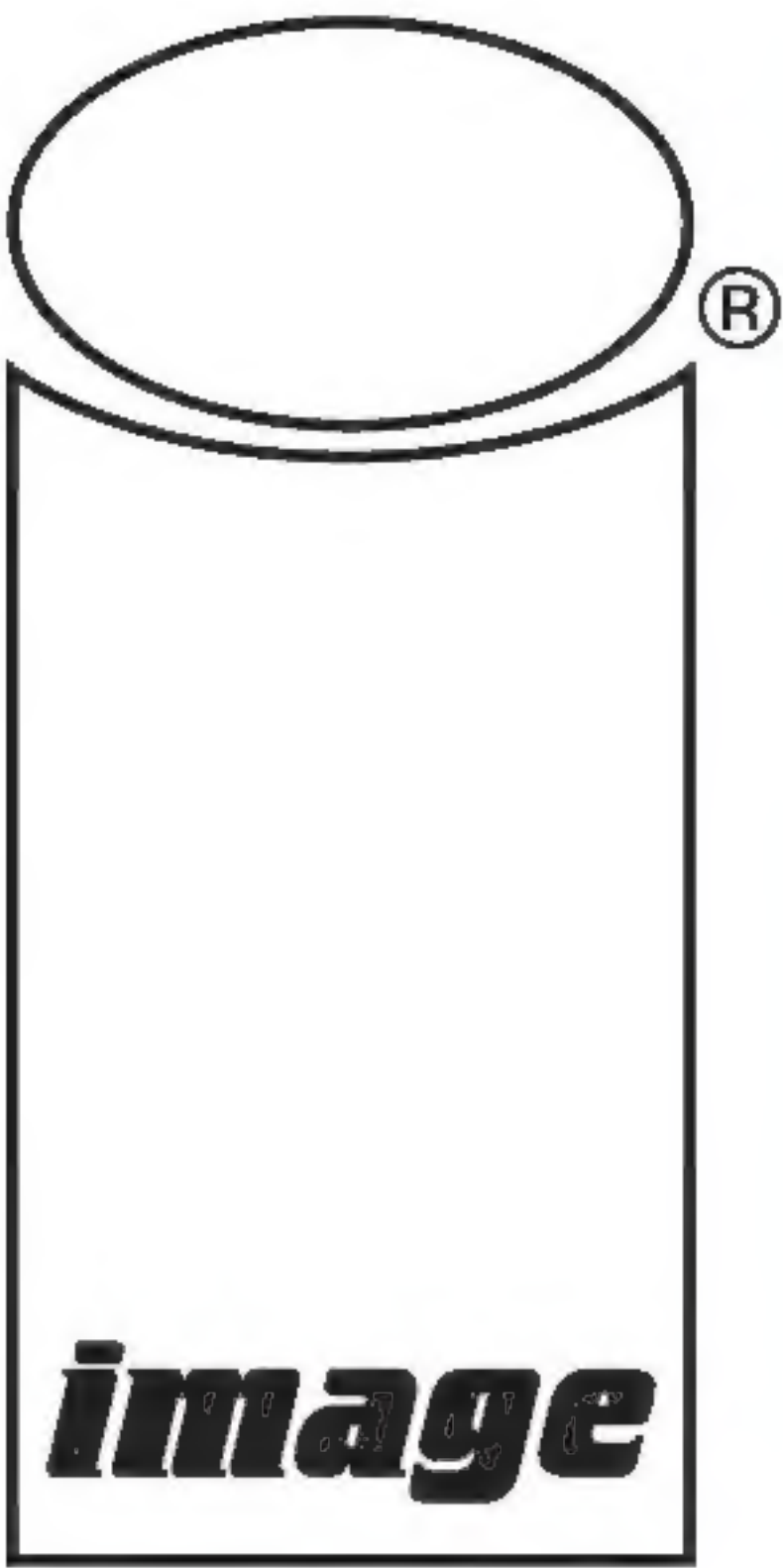
Artist extraordinaire RILEY ROSSMID joins forces with nine different writers over three issues to tell tall tales from beyond the grave! A mortalachi falls in love with a woman who looks like his lost love, a father is abused by a poltergeist, and a girl whose mother died when she was born visits the land of the dead in her dreams.

## THE END TIMES OF BRAM & BEN #1 (OF 4)



What would you do if you were caught in The Biblical End Times? When Heaven captures total bastard Bram Carlson in a "clerical error" - he's sent back and immediately uses Armageddon to his benefit! Can his anxious roommate Ben save Bram from himself - AND the gathering forces of Armageddon?

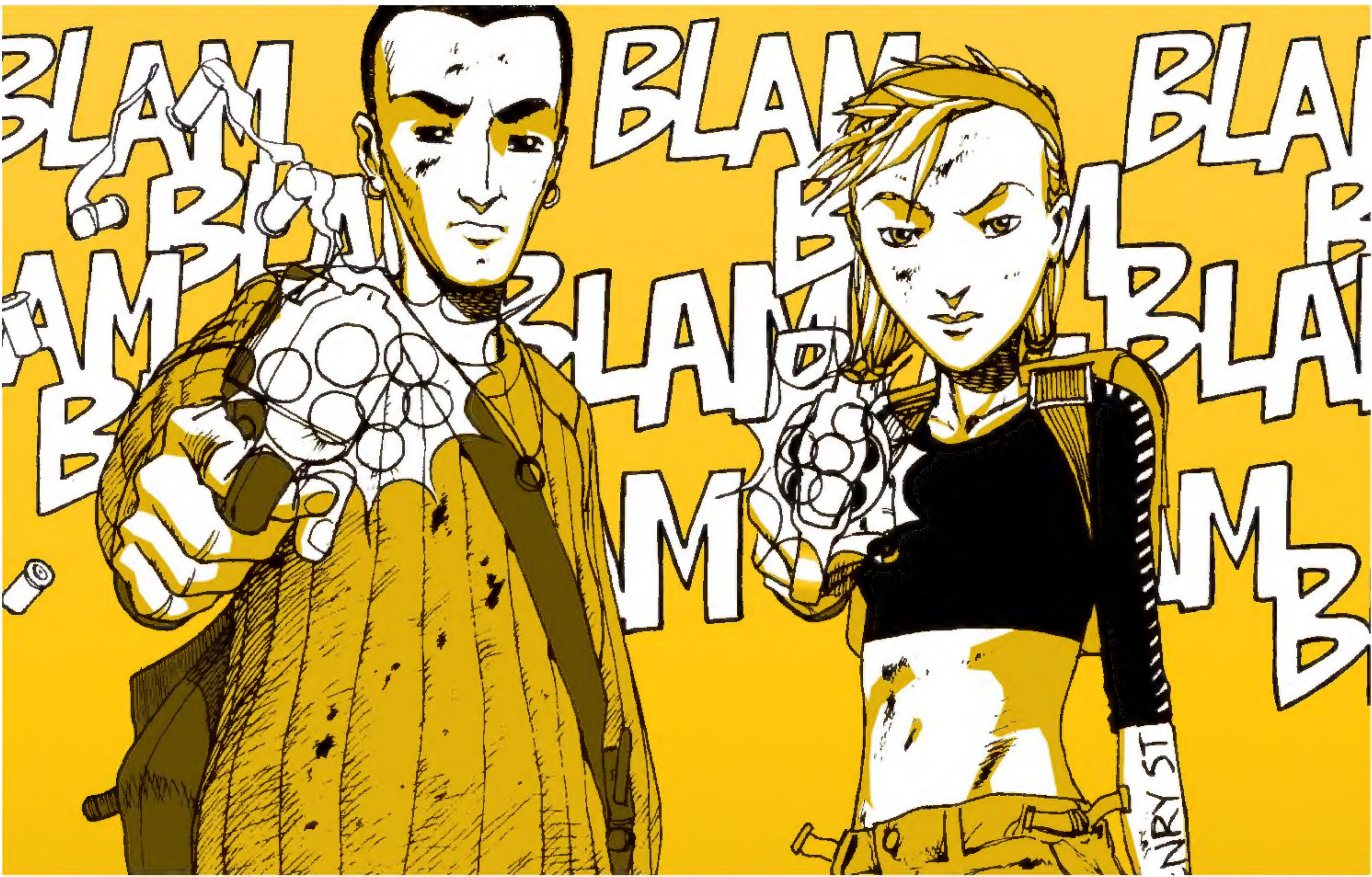




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— Publishers Weekly

# THE ONE TRICK RIP-OFF + DEEP CUTS



PAUL POPE



JANUARY 2013



# FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND



ISSUE #31 JANUARY 2013

JOHN LAYMAN ROB GUILLORY

# CHEW

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